

L'lon 26/10/01

C.C.

## THE HARTZ MOUNTAINS

I am glad I have been asked by the committee to show you the scenery of the Hartz Mountains, and say something about ~~them~~, because this locality is of especial interest to me, for ~~I~~ I was the first man who ever used a camera there, and the first to practically introduce the very beautiful scenery to the Tasmanian public,--at once creating an interest which has grown in intensity as the years have gone by, and the place has become better known and talked about.

I have said those mountains have an especial interest to me; --yes, apart from what I have just stated they have afforded me very, very much pleasure, and yet again much sorrow, for I lost one of my best and most intimate friends--the best bushman in the Huon--on the inhospitable wilds of its bleak plains, during a howling, whirling, snow blizzard. <sup>dropped down</sup> He ~~was~~ <sub>^</sub>

in the snow and died, no one could save him, and his companions had to flee to save their own lives which were also in imminent jeopardy, and today, up yonder amidst the stunted foliage of that great storm-swept plain, there is a simply inscribed marble slab, let into a big rough rock, marking the spot where Arthur Geeves died on that awful day.

One can hardly realize how, within 12 miles of a temperate climate there can exist contemporaneously, such wild and

~~and~~ dangerously intemperate conditions, for dur-

-ing the awful state of the weather on the mountains on that dreadful day, away down on the plains at Geeveston-3000 feet below-there were no signs of unrest or disturbance!

I fear this uncertainty, this fickleness of climate on our highlands, is going to be ~~an~~ ~~serious~~ impediment in the paths of our Tourist Associations in their endeavours to make those spots reasonably accessible and safe for our general tourist. --Still, I feel that ~~this~~ <sup>this</sup> very uncertainty may have a charm for many, always provided of course, that at the journeys end there is a good fire and a comfortable ~~firm~~ bed--that's half the battle in bush travelling.

### *No 1 - Map. x*

But I must hurry on! Let me then, first of all, deal with the routes leading to the Hartz Mountains from Hobart, so that you may gain some acquaintance with the character of their scenery, and be thus able the better to judge of their merits. --There are two routes--one by water, and the other by road.

The water route is by way of D'Entrecasteaux Channel and the Huon River to Shipwrights Point, 112 miles;--the other by way of the Huon Road skirting the slopes of Mount Wellington, crossing the Huon River at Huonville, 21 miles from Hobart,



and then continuing along the banks of the river

as far as ~~Wynyard~~ <sup>Port Huon</sup> half a mile past Shipwrights Point

-where there is a balance of 3 miles of ~~Wynyard~~ road which

lands you at Geeveston, a total distance of 36½ miles from

Hobart. We will glance, then, at a few of the views along the

beautiful waterway of D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

2. View from Bonnet Hill - show 1 cut: Chan<sup>e</sup>
3. Pearsons Point from Denne's Point
4. Coast at Denne's Point, look<sup>g</sup> towards Pearsons
5. Barnes Bay
6. Adventure Bay
7. Fluted Cape.
8. Kettering
9. At Flower Pot, showing Channel look N.E.
10. " " " " " S.
11. Pauranua Channel from Middleton.
12. Gordon looking N.
13. " " S.
14. Channel & Adamson's Peak near Arch Id
15. Huon R. estuary from Miller's Reef
16. Woody Island & the River " " "
17. Hospital Bay & Huon River

These views will suffice as examples of the Houn  
water way. Now, we will return to Hobart and notice the  
scenery of the overland route,--

18. Hobart from the Huon Road
19. Huon Road & Mt. Wellington x
20. The Reservoirs & " " x
21. ~~Fern Tree Hotel & River Yacht (Summer)~~ x
22. " " " " " (winter) x
23. Fern Tree River in winter. x
24. ~~Huon Road at Watchorn's Hill~~ x
25. ~~"High Peak" residence of Eur Grant.~~ x
26. On the Huon Road. x
27. ~~The "Huon Belle" from Bullock Hill~~ x
28. " " " " near Huonville x
29. Huon River & Bridge at " x
30. ~~Huon River above Bridge~~ x
31. Mosquito Point Huon River x
32. Huon River from Mosquito Point x
33. ~~Huon River " Port Lysant Road~~ x
34. " " " Franklin Road x
35. Franklin from North x
36. " " " South Road below x
37. View from Franklin looking to Shipwreck Pt



- + 38. - Castle Forbes Bay x  
 + 39. - Shipwreck Point x  
 40. + Hospital Bay and Hartz Mountains x.  
 41. + Panorama above Geveston from above Hospital Bay.  
 42. Kermandie River from road to Geveston.  
 + 43. Geveston x  
 + 44. ~~Rush Creek road.~~ x  
 x 45. Umbrella Ferns. (Cyathia Cunninghamii)  
 x 46. Dobson Basin x  
 + 47. " " " " " " x  
 + 48. Kermandie River at South Creek x  
 + 49. " " " " " " x  
 + 50. " " " " " " x

We are now four miles from Geveston, and on the threshold  
 of the Hartz Track which branches off from the main road to  
 the mountains, some 8 miles distant. The views, both by land  
 and water, which we have just noticed, cannot but be <sup>a</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>great</sup> ~~an~~  
<sup>great</sup> attraction to the tourist, who, indeed, may feel well re-  
 -paid for the journey by them alone. The steamer and coach  
<sup>as we know</sup> services are excellent. <sup>Two</sup> ~~Three~~ coaches per day, with the ~~ex-~~  
<sup>prospect</sup> ~~view~~ of an <sup>electric tram</sup> ~~efficient motor~~ service <sup>in the near future</sup> ~~with~~  
<sup>is made</sup> ~~with~~ a daily steamer, <sup>enjoyable</sup> ~~the~~ journey exceedingly ~~enjoyable~~ and convenient.

This track to the mountains owes its existence, in very  
 large measure, to the energy of Senator Dobson, who has always  
 been so active in promoting anything that will stimulate the  
 Tourist traffic in our state.

It was opened in 1893, and improved much afterwards.

and an accommodation house erected at its termination on the mountain plain, near the summit, which proves a great boon to travellers, being so much more comfortable than a tent. The track was surveyed by Mr Osborne Geeves and his sons, and was cut out by his son Arthur, who subsequently, ~~it~~ will be remembered, lost his life on the mountain. The 8 miles of this track, from South Creek to the Accommodation Hut is one continual unfoldment of almost the whole of Tasmanias store of botanical treasures, and lovers of nature cannot but admire and enjoy the endless bush pictures displayed so lavishly on either hand--of changing forest trees, beautiful foliage, and graceful fern. The Kermadie River is crossed several times during the first mile or so of the track, and at two miles, furnishes rather a picturesque waterfall which is worthy of notice.---

### × 51. *Kermadie Falls.* ×

<sup>little</sup> This river takes its rise from a ~~large~~ button-rush plain of about 300 acres, at an altitude of ~~about~~ 1300 feet--and is crossed by the track at about 4 miles from South Creek. From one part of this little plain rather a pretty peep of the head of Mount Hartz is got.

### 52. *View from Kermadie Plains.*



From the Kermandie Plains one begins to enter the sub-<sup>alpine</sup>~~alpine~~ zone and the foliage assumes much richness and beauty. <sup>(Richea Pandanifolia)</sup>

×53. View of Hartz Track near Grass Tree Hill ×

×54. " " " " at " " " ×

The track is very hilly in parts, but the rises, although in places steep, are short, and glimpses of the hills, and occasionally of the mountains in the distance, are reliefs to monotony.

×55. The Hartz Mountain Accommodation Hut.

The Accommodation House, shown on the screen, although by no means an ideal structure, is yet, never-the-less a valuable adjunct to the mountains. It is snugly situated on the Hartz Plain, by a good creek on the fringe of a dense myrtle bush which shelters it from the prevailing winds. It measures 32 x 12 feet and is divided into 3 compartments, a central room 12 X 12 forming the general or sitting room, and two rooms on either side fitted with bunks, serve as sleeping rooms for ladies and gentlemen. There are no fireplaces in the sleeping rooms, and the wooden bunks are SO hard!

×56- The Mountain Plain - ×

From this Accommodation Hut, tracks—hardly definite enough however for the general visitor—branch off to the different

lakes and the mountain top. The view on the screen, showing the mountain plain, will now afford me an opportunity for a brief description of the 'locale' of the sight<sup>s</sup> and of the Hartz Range itself.

The rugged basaltic formation of the summit of the range stands up finely and precipitately from this plain, rising to about a thousand feet, trending roughly N.W. and S.E. for 8 miles or so,--the southern aspect terminating in two fine, and bold pyramidal bluffs, which join the Adamsons Peak group while the northern end peters out in a series of jagged, sharp wedge shaped rocks, called The Pinnacles.

The plain, shown on the screen, stretches along the base of this rugged mountain crest, its width averaging, I should think about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, seeming to be formed of slight terraces, whose slopes are usually clad with dense fringes of timber. The altitude of this plain is about 3000 feet above sea level, and (it is quite free from button rush--those who have had experience of button grass travelling would appreciate the 'going' on the Hartz Plain--and in lieu of this abominable grass, there is a soft, tufty, mountain artichoke, which is very pleasant and safe to walk upon.

(*Astelia Alpina*)

There are seven lakes in all on the mountains--all lying under the rugged shelter of the crest of the range--6 of them

of them



being on the East side of the range, none of them being large, but all most picturesque, seeming to be like pockets on the sides of the range, their drainage outlets, strange to state, are all situate at their southern ends. Most of them have been stocked with Loch Leven trout, and in the large lake the trout have been seen of fair size, but are reported to be difficult to <sup>catch</sup> ~~work~~ in the orthodox way. Personally I doubt if they will be a permanent success, on account of paucity of food, still that remains to be proved, and although much in evidence now in the lake, <sup>very few about a dozen</sup> ~~only one~~ fish have <sup>been</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>fairly</sup> hooked. If fishing can be successfully maintained it will mean a tremendous additional attraction for the locality.

We will now notice the lakes and scenery at the northern end of the range which lie most convenient to the Accommodation House. The first one--about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile distant

*57. Lake Osborne.* is a lake of about 500 X 200 yards, of an oval shape, and has been named after the discoverer of these mountain beauties, the veteran explorer of the Huon,--Mr Osborne Geeves.--- Quite close to this lake is another,

named

*58 -- Lake Perry.* x

after the man who accompanied Mr Geeves when he made the discoveries.

*59. The Pineapple*

This view is got from the high northern embankment of the lake, and from this position a very good view of the northern trend of the ~~Hartz~~ **Hartz Range** is obtained, called

### *59- The Pinnacles.*

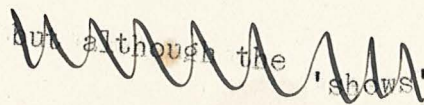
Between the Pinnacles and Lake Perry is an open saddle called 'The Gap'. From here a magnificent view presents itself.

The Gap dips precipitately into the great valley of the Picton River, and immediately beyond the river, Mount Picton<sup>N</sup> from which the river takes its name, rises up abruptly and majestically, and presents a spectacle which, however, can only be truly represented by the artists brush---

### *x 60. Mt. Picton from the Gap. x*

The photograph on the screen is really a caricature of the actual scene. Glimpses of the grander mountain ranges beyond are obtained, but they will be more particularly dealt with when we show the scenery of Mt Hartz proper, where they are seen to better advantage.

In this <sup>beautiful</sup> ~~scenic~~ Picton valley we have the most extensive stringy bark forests in the state---very heavily timbered.

Across the Gap, down into the Picton River and beyond, skirting the southern slopes of Mt Picton, is a track running into the Arthur Plains towards Port Davey. This track taps mineral country 'en route' but although the  'shows'



but although several good 'shows' have been located,  
~~and nothing~~ nothing tangible has resulted, and indeed  
 I fail to see how anything tangible can result, the place be-  
 -ing absolutely inaccessible at present.

The outfall of the two lakes we have just noticed, (Osborne  
 and Perry) junction about 3/4 of a mile below on the plain, ~~xxx~~  
<sup>forming</sup> ~~meeting~~ the River Arve, one of the many tributaries of the  
 Huon River, and at about a 1/4 of a mile further, their combin-  
 -ed waters tumble down a steep gorge making a series of fine  
 waterfalls which I shall now show you.-----

- x 61. The Upper Arve Fall x
- x 62. " " " " (another aspect) x
- x 63. " Lower Arve Fall x
- x 64. " " INTERVAL " (another aspect) x
- x 65. Start Plain showing track to Mountains x

Returning to the Accommodation Hut we will now visit the  
 series of lakes lying at the Southern quarter of the range,  
 the general character of the track being shown by the photo-  
 -graph on the screen, running over open, tussocky country for  
 about 2 miles to the range. It was ~~quite close~~ in this lo-  
 -cality that in 1898 the very sad accident happened to the  
 members of the Gieves family--two of their number succumbing  
 in the midst of a fearful blizzard. The circumstance caused

a profound sensation throughout the Huon District.  
 and evoked <sup>quite a remarkable</sup> ~~such~~ wave of sympathy such as I have  
 never <sup>even</sup> ~~known~~ before. A memorial, in the form of a marble  
 slab was erected by subscription on the Hartz Plain, not far  
 from where the deaths took place.---

### 66. The Memorial Tablet. x

On this plain we meet with pretty little tarns surrounded by  
 beautiful foliage.--

### 67. A Mountain Tarn x

the view on the screen being an example.

### 68. Lake Esperance from North

This view brings us now to the southern lakes, of which there  
 are four lying on the east side of the range, the fifth lake  
 being on the other, or western side. ~~of the range~~. The lake  
 shown on the screen I named Lake Esperance, as from it the  
 Esperance River takes its rise, the other three eastern lakes  
 contributing their waters to the same <sup>river</sup> ~~purpose~~.

### 69. Lake Esperance from South. x

70. " Eliza

71. " " (another aspect)

72. " Arthur x

73. " Emily x

74. " " x

75. " " x

1 Lake Eliza  
 2 " "



We will now climb the range, and I shall endeavour to describe the panorama spread out before the visitor as best I can without the aid of photographs, for I have to confess, with much regret, that I have never been fortunate enough to strike a clear day suitable for successful photographic work, during the many visits I have made to the mountains. The top of the mountain range is very sharp.

and when one comes up and ~~is~~ is suddenly confronted by the impressive western panorama beyond, it simply takes <sup>away</sup> what reserve of breath you may have left after your climb. ~~right away~~ !

I remember asking my old friend the late Mr J.B. Walker what were his impressions when he first sighted this panorama.

"Why", he replied, "I just stood and shouted".

Another told me he felt like breaking out into a song of thanksgiving to Him whose ~~Hand~~ <sup>Seems</sup> so indelibly impressed upon all around,--it was so indescribably soul-inspiring, he said:--and so it is, every bit of it !

~~Sweeping~~ Sweeping round from East to North the panorama embraces the Quieter settled ~~country~~ portions of Tasmania,--Bruny Island, D'Entrecasteaux Channel, The Huon Valley, and away beyond, the Wellington Range, with The Huon Belle, &c &c--the extreme north-west showing the trend of the Hartz Range with the lakes be-

-low, looking like little pools, and away in the

dim distance the masses of the Humboldt Range, and

the mountains of the Gordon River. <sup>in the vicinity</sup> Coming round west the

massive, magnificent form of Mt Anne, with the closely tower-

-ing ~~mountain~~ Mt Picton, are beautiful sights, but the Grandest

of all is the Arthur Range, that solitary, rugged, mountain

~~range~~ chain, rising abruptly from the button rush plain and

mountain wall

running for 20 miles north and south--an awe inspiring ~~view~~ <sup>view</sup>,

grandly picturesque from end to end.

76. ~~Corbett Range~~

77. " " Sunset.

\* 78. Showing Adamsons Peak Mountains x

To the south-west, the rugged mountains about the Port Davey coast--the Bathurst Ranges--are seen, and to the South the ~~xx~~ masses of La Perouse and Adamsons Peak.

There is no other place in Tasmania where such an effective panorama of some of the most impressive of our western mountain scenery can be obtained, and at so little sacrifice in exertion, time, and expence.

Lake Wartz, the largest of the lake group, lies 500 feet below the saddle from which these panoramic views are obtainable, surrounded by fine foliage with an artistic background of the mountain itself.--

\* 79. Lake Wartz & Mt. Wartz. x



It is shaped somewhat like the letter D. and I

would roughly estimate its area at about 1000 by 500 yards. It discharges its overflow into the Picton River some five miles distant, and at about 18 miles from the junction of that river with the Huon.

### 80. Beattie Lagoon. x

This is a beautiful adjunct of the lake--a shallow lagoon--which the Geeves have named after my humble self.

### 81. Camping at Lake Hartz. x

This is an <sup>reminder</sup> ~~example~~ of one of the most delightful <sup>of my</sup> ~~reminis-~~ cences of the Hartz Mountains--our camp by Lake Hartz, which included Mr Osborne Geeves, his son Arthur (who afterwards ~~was~~ was killed on the mountain) and one or two lady relatives. It was delightfully warm, calm summer weather, the beautiful foliage on the lake margin making an ideal camping ground. I shall never forget the camp fire chat of that night, lastin<sup>g</sup> right up till midnight--<sup>and</sup> when Arthur and I crawled under our light, little tent fly, one end blocked up with grass tree ~~leaves~~ leaves, the other with our own big feet, he confessed to me it had done him good!

### 82. Southern End of Lake Hartz. x

The precipices of the southern part of Mt Hartz stand out

finely from the outfall of the lake, as shown on the screen, and in this direction the blazed track which

leads to the Picton River runs, which we will now follow.

It passes through magnificent foliage, and fine timber country, and when within a mile and a half of the Picton a great break in the mountain side occurs many hundreds of feet in height, over which the Hartz Lake waters pour in a series of two waterfalls, which, effective enough under ordinary conditions, must be exceedingly grand ~~and~~ during heavy rainfalls, but owing to their confined situations, <sup>(the lower fall in particular)</sup> this latter condition would make them quite unapproachable for photographic purposes.

83. Upper Hartz Fall.

\*84. Lower " " - X

The Picton River, distant about 1 mile from the Falls, is an ideal fishing stream.

85 Upper Picton River

It takes its rise from the La Perouse Range, some 30 miles distant from its terminal—its junction with the Huon River, and for some 20 miles its average width is about 100 feet. Here was a great pine country in earlier days, and the Huon Pine getters frequented it much, but all the pine has been



worked out, although fairly large patches are still to be found away up the creeks which flow into the river~~x~~, but they cannot be got near enough to a water-way of sufficient volume to wash them down into the big river where they could be rafted ~~down~~ to the settlements.

### 86. The Picton River.

Fishermen will recognise the attractive appearance of the Picton as a fishing stream, yet strange to say, there is a <sup>marked</sup> ~~total~~ absence in its waters of any but native fish. This is rather ~~an~~ extraordinary ~~phenomenon~~, considering how well stocked the Huon River is with the Salmonide<sup>a</sup>, and that no impediment whatever occurs in the Picton, from its junction with the Huon to its upper waters, to hinder the passage of the fish.

### 87. The Picton River at Pine Creek

At this part of the river the rough cut Port Davey track crosses,--the river being fairly fordable. This track, passing, as we previously noticed, the Hartz Accommodation Hut on the mountain plain, lends additional value to the Hartz Trip, because it affords the hardy climber the means of seeing all that the Hartz can offer, those tracks forming a complete loop round the range, the total distance being about 14 miles.

Those adventurous spirits can plunge into the ~~xxx~~  
 very thick of Tasmanias typical bush country, and

I have always thought it is worth a little exertion to obtain<sup>N</sup>  
 this experiance. The fisherman, to, who may not be satisfied<sup>A</sup>  
 with the quiet and the imported trout of the beautiful lakes  
 on the mountain, can dip down into the Picton where he can  
 have miles of an ideal stream at his disposal, and although  
 it may be difficult to hook a wayward salmon from the Huon,  
 yet he can catch the native article-which some people say  
<sup>is</sup>  
~~the~~ the best after all.

I would by no means, however, advise anyone but experienced  
 bush climbers to do this trip. Last time when I passed thro-  
 -ugh in very hot weather, I had over 60 Lbs. weight on my back  
~~and they told me I fainted when half way up the steep Port~~  
 Davey Track, on the way back to the Hut, I <sup>knocked out</sup> ~~can't~~ remember, <sup>just</sup> ~~W~~

~~xxxxxx this is the first time I have made this confession of my weakness~~  
<sup>how</sup>  
~~I was~~ <sup>I was</sup> exceedingly pleased when I reached the Hut again  
<sup>By the way</sup>  
 This is the first time I have made ~~my~~ confession of <sup>this</sup>  
 weakness, but it was only the natural result of misbehaviour;

~~for~~ I had been drinking too much (water) during the march.

88. Junction of Picton & Huon Rivers x

89. <sup>Broken Bridge</sup> Sunset on the Huon River x

90. Breaking Waves - Bruny Coast. x



Ladies and Gentlemen, I fear I have overstepped <sup>my</sup> ~~the~~

limits ~~of my share of~~ this evening's ~~entertainment~~.

and I will now ~~very briefly~~ conclude by offering a few remarks on some aspects of the trip I have had the honour and also the great pleasure of unfolding to you.

As regards the value of the Hartz Mountains as a Tourist Resort, that is thoroughly assured, the beauty of the scenery all along the line is so patent to all to admit of any doubt on that score.--still much remains to be done yet to make the trip an easy and comfortable one for the ordinary tourist of both sexes. This latter observation applies equally to nearly all of our highland tourist resorts--they are all fairly approachable, and have all shelter of some sort, but what about the comfort, so essentially necessary to make them pleasant, inviting, and worth staying at? I ~~don't~~ know of <sup>only</sup> ~~any~~ <sup>2</sup> places where <sup>visitors</sup> ladies or even gentlemen, not used to roughing it, <sup>can</sup> be decently comfortable. ~~The great Lake, & Interlaken~~

This must be remedied--and I suppose it will be in time--but by whom? Well, I don't quite think that our Tourist Associations, in their present financial situations, can do it, or should be asked to do it. I have felt it <sup>to be</sup> a monstrous thing that a mere handful of individuals in our two cities, who form the real mainstay of our Northern and Southern

Associations should have to be repeatedly putting their hands into their pockets to further the interests of practically the greater part of our State. Patriotic sentiment is right enough and is worthy of every encouragement, but our tourist business, it seems to me, cannot be run successfully on sentimental lines alone, but must largely be regarded as a purely business speculation. Let the Government make the Tourist Traffic a serious part of its policy, and if it would be found unwise to create a Tourist Department, let there be active and generous support and co-operation given to the two associations, north and south, who have done and are doing so much good work in the interests of Tasmania, and who, with increased State facilities could speedily make our beautiful island accessible and comfortable to all classes of our visitors.